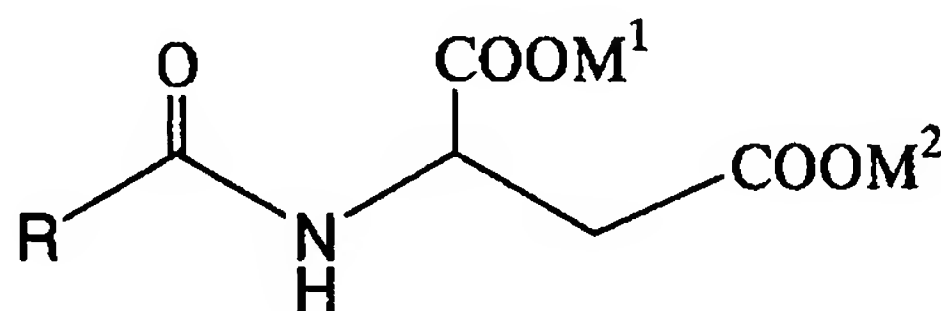


IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30 in accordance with the following:

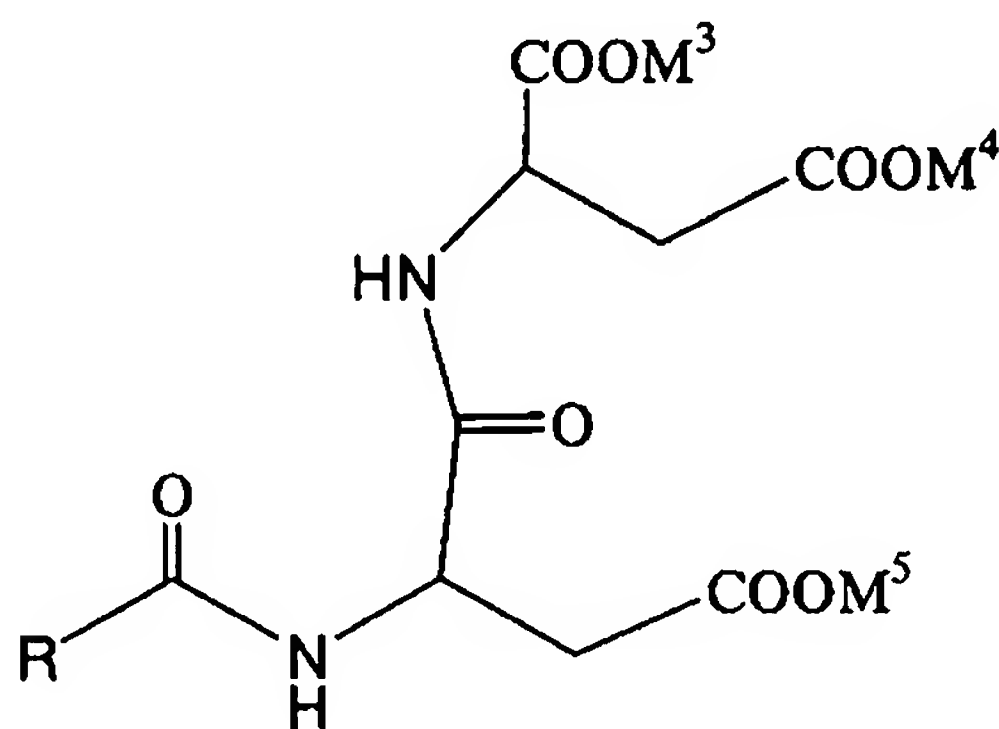
1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cleansing composition, comprising:
 (A) N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (1):
 [Formula 1]



Formula 式 (1)

wherein R is an alkyl group having from 7 to 23 carbon atoms, and M¹ and M² are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid;

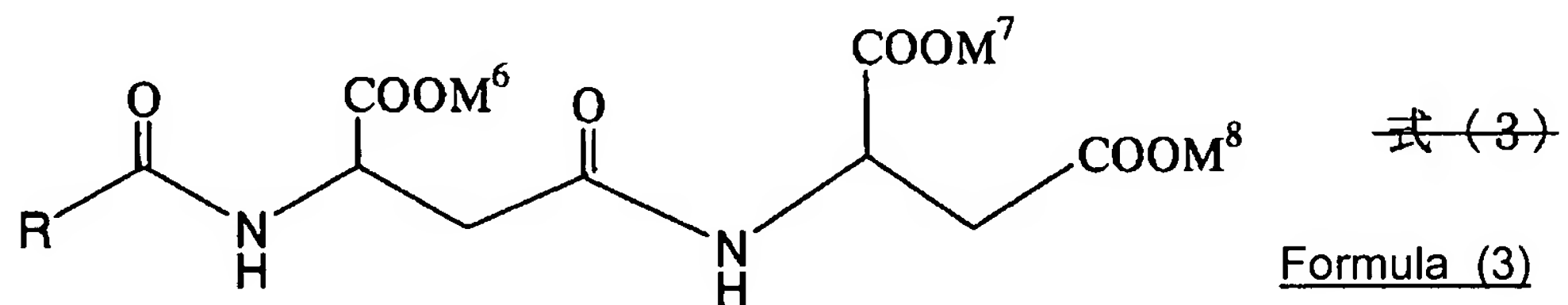
- (B) N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof, represented by formula (2):
 [Formula 2]



Formula 式 (2)

wherein R is the same alkyl group specified in formula (1), and M³, M⁴ and M⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid;
or represented by formula (3):

[Formula 3]



wherein R is the same as in formula (2), and M⁶, M⁷ and M⁸ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid; and

(C) a higher fatty acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (4):

[Formula 4]



Formula 一式(4)

wherein R is the same as in formula (2), and M⁹ is a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkylammonium, alkanolammonium or a protonated basic amino acid.

2. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 1, wherein component (B) comprises N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) and N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3).

3. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) to N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3) is 1:3 to 3:1.

4. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 3, wherein the amount of component (B) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (B), and the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

5. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 4, wherein the amount of component (B) is 0.1 to 8% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (B), and the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 10% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of from 5.0 to 7.0.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein R in component (A) has from 9 to 17 carbon atoms.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein M¹ to M⁹ in formulas (1) to (4) are one or more selected from a hydrogen atom, sodium, lithium, potassium, ammonium and triethanolammonium.

9. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 8, wherein M¹ to M⁹ in formulas (1) to (4) are only one selected from sodium, lithium, potassium, ammonium and triethanolammonium, other than a hydrogen atom.

10. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 9, wherein M¹ to M⁹ in formulas (1) to (4) are selected only from a hydrogen atom and sodium.

11. (ORIGINAL) A cleansing composition comprising component (A) represented by formula (1), wherein after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the reduction in foaming power thereof is 20% or less.

12. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 11, wherein after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the increase in the content of a free fatty acid based on component (A) is 15% by mass or less.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to claim 11-~~or 42~~, further comprising component (B) which comprises N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) and N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3).

14. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 13, wherein the weight ratio of N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) to N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3) is 1:3 to 3:1.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to claim 13-~~or 44~~, wherein the amount of component (B) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (B).

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~claim 11, further comprising component (C) represented by formula (4).

17. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 16, wherein the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 11 to 17~~claim 11, wherein the composition has a pH of from 4.5 to 6.0.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 11 to 18~~claim 11, further comprising component (D) which comprises one or more selected from inorganic salts and organic acid alkali metal salts, wherein the amount of component (D) is from 0.01 to 50% by mass based on the amount of component (A).

20. (ORIGINAL) A method for producing a cleansing composition of claim 1 in which N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof is used as component (A), wherein the N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof is prepared by the steps comprising:

adjusting the N-acyl-aspartic acid or a salt thereof to a pH of 6.0 or higher; and then adjusting the resulting mixture to a final pH of from 4.5 to 6.0, wherein the difference between the highest pH and the final pH is 0.5 or more.

21. (ORIGINAL) A cleansing composition characterized in that the composition comprises component (A) represented by formula (1) which is neutralized to a pH in the range of from 6.6 to 10; after the composition is stored at 50°C for 30 days, the reduction in foaming power thereof in a weakly acidic region is 10% or less; and the reduction in the measured value of visible-light transmittance at a wavelength of 430 nm is 10% or less.

22. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 21, comprising component (A) represented by formula (1), component (B) represented by formula (2) or (3), and component (C) represented by formula (4).

23. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 22, wherein component (B) comprises N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) and N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3).

24. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 23, wherein the weight ratio of N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (2) to N-acyl-diaspartic acid or a salt thereof represented by formula (3) is 1:3 to 3:1.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 22 to 24~~claim 22, wherein the amount of component (B) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (B), and the amount of component (C) is 0.1 to 15% by mass based on the total amount of components (A) and (C).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 21 to 25~~claim 21, wherein the content of the component (A) in which the alkyl group in formula (1) has 11 carbon atoms is 50% by mol or more of the total component (A).

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 21 to 26~~claim 21, wherein M^1 and M^2 in formula (1) are an alkali metal salt in addition to a hydrogen atom.

28. (ORIGINAL) The cleansing composition according to claim 27, wherein M^1 and M^2 in formula (1) are each sodium in addition to a hydrogen atom.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 28~~claim 1, comprising from 0.005 to 0.3 part by mass of phosphorus.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The cleansing composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 28~~claim 1, comprising from 0.005 to 0.08 part by mass of organic phosphorus.